

HOUSE BILL 3918

By Carr

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 6, Part 4, relative to Rutherford County  
LEAP program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 49-6-4\_\_.

(a) The department of education shall establish, administer and monitor a grant for a pilot project that shall provide laptop or netbook computers to seventh grade public school students to be used by the students as a supplemental classroom learning tool through the twelfth grade.

(b) The purpose of the pilot project shall be to integrate computer use throughout the school day in all subjects and classes to ensure public school students achieve computer proficiency and are equipped with the necessary tools to pursue higher education and to enter the work force. The pilot project shall encompass the technological fundamentals of Internet research, understanding and use of spreadsheets, word processing, and presentation skills to enable students to succeed in school and to be competitive in today's work force.

(c) The goal of the pilot project shall be to create a one-to-one computing environment within the framework of accepted state and national curricula and instructional technology standards that can be replicated throughout the state.

(d) The performance of the pilot program shall be evaluated according to the participating students' ability to:

(1) Demonstrate creative thinking and constructive knowledge as they develop innovative products and processes using technology;

(2) Use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, both in classroom groups and distantly, to support individual learning and to contribute to the learning of others;

(3) Apply digital tools to gather, evaluate and use information;

(4) Use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources;

(5) Understand human, cultural and societal issues related to technology, and practice legal and ethical behavior; and

(6) Demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.

(e) The pilot project shall be conducted for a period of at least five (5) years in one (1) LEA. Each seventh grade student who enters the pilot project shall be issued a laptop or netbook computer. The pilot project shall be phased in over the five-year period, so that at least at the beginning of the fifth year of the project, every seventh grade student in the school district shall be issued a computer.

(f) The computers used in the pilot project may be purchased or leased as determined to be most efficacious by the LEA and grantee.

(g) The department of education shall give preference in awarding the grant for the pilot project to a nonprofit organization that has been in a collaborative effort with an LEA to operate such type program on a small scale for at least two (2) years. To be eligible for the grant, a nonprofit corporation shall be an entity that is exempt from federal income taxation under § 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, codified in 26 U.S.C. §

501(a), as an organization described in § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, codified in 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.